

**LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

SUBJECT: ASTM Pool Alarm Voluntary Standards Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: September 11, 2000

PLACE OF MEETING: West Conshohocken PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Troy Whitfield

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Colin Church, Troy Whitfield

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: List to be provided

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The meeting at ASTM headquarters was held at the request of CPSC to develop voluntary standards for the performance of swimming pool alarms. The meeting was called to order by Katharine Morgan of ASTM who then explained the objectives of the meeting. Ms. Morgan then provided an overview of ASTM and the standards development process. Mr. John Blair of DuPont Co., and chairman of the ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products, then explained the Committee F15, and the provisional standards process.

The CPSC staff then provided death and injury information regarding residential swimming pool drowning. There was also some discussion about the CPSC pool alarm testing report. The CPSC staff recognized the fact that this development process was different from other efforts in the past where problems with the specific product were identified. The staff expressed the concern that pool alarms are marketed as a safety feature, yet there is no performance standard to substantiate the operation of the device.

Manufacturers of various types of alarms were in attendance and the possibility for development of such standards for their product was discussed. Mr. Blair presented some ideas for the group consider, namely; 1) consistent detection of a 16-pound weight, 2) resist false alarms (possibly detection of an 8-pound weight) and, 3) an automatic reset requirement. There was also discussion about an awareness program through various consumer groups to educate the public on the use of and need for multiple layers of protection, including pool alarms.

The group agreed that standards could be developed and a subcommittee was formed. Mr. Blair will act as chairman for the subcommittee for several meetings while the process gets started, then a chairman will be elected. The scope, test method, and test specification will be developed and shared with various members of a task group for approval before presentation to the rest of the subcommittee. The group also agreed to develop the standard through the provisional approval process.

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared
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